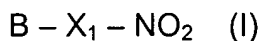


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

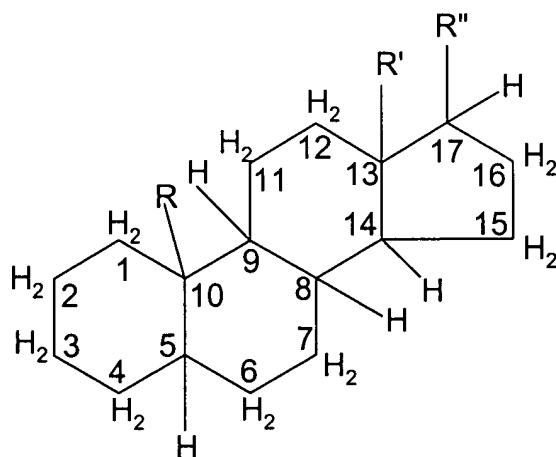
Please amend Claims 1 – 26 as follows:

1. (Original) Nitrooxy derivatives of steroidal compounds of general formula



or esters or salts thereof, wherein:

B is a steroidal radical having the following structure:

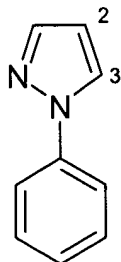


(IA)

wherein at the place of the hydrogen of the CH group, or of the two hydrogens of the CH₂ group indicated in the general formula, there can be the following substituents:

in position 1-2: a double bond;

in position 2-3 the following substituent:



(IA-1);

in position 2: Cl, Br;

in position 3: oxo, -O-CH₂-CH₂-Cl, OH, OCH₃;

in position 4-5: a double bond;

in position 5-6: a double bond;

in position 6: Cl, F, Br, CH₃, -CHO;

the ring defined by the carbon atoms numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 10 is an aromatic ring when B is the residue of an estrogen;

in position 7: Cl, OH;

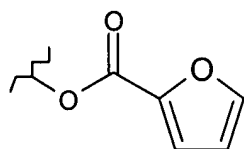
in position 9: Cl, F, Br;

in position 11: OH, oxo, Cl;

in position 16: CH₃, OH, =CH₂;

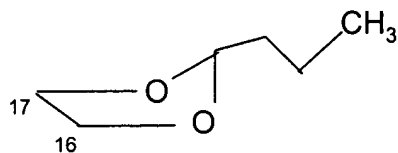
in position 17: OH, CH₃, OCO(O)_{ua}(CH₂)_{va}CH₃ wherein ua is an integer equal to 0 or 1, va is an integer from 0 to 4, ethynyl (C≡CH);

or

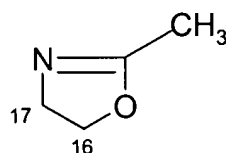


(IA-2)

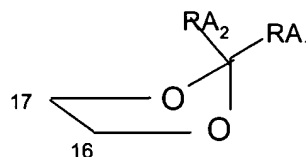
in position 16-17 the following groups:



(IA-3)



(IA-4)



(IA-5)

wherein RA₁ is H, CH₃; RA₂ is C₁-C₁₀ linear or branched alkyl chain, preferably C₁-C₃, still more preferably CH₃, or a saturated cycloaliphatic ring having 5-6 carbon atoms or an aromatic ring optionally substituted in para position with N(R_{1c})₂ wherein R_{1c} is a C₁-C₁₀, preferably C₁-C₄, linear or branched alkyl; R and

R', equal to or different from each other, can be hydrogen or C₁-C₄ linear or branched alkyls, preferably R = R' = CH₃ or R = R' = H;

preferably B is a corticosteroid residue;

R'' in position 17 is a bivalent radical having one of the following meanings:

IB) $-(CO-L)_t-(X_O)_{t1}-$, wherein t = 1 and t₁ is 0 or 1, preferably 0;

IC) $-L-(X_O)_{t1}-$, wherein t₁ is 0 or 1, preferably 1;

the bivalent linking group L has the following meaning:



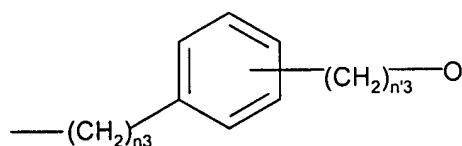
wherein n_a, n'_a, and n''_a, equal to or different from each other, are integers from 0 to 6, preferably 1-3; n_b, n'_b, n''_b and n'''_b, equal to or different from each other, are integers equal to 0 or 1; R₄, R₅, R_{4'}, R_{5'}, R_{4''}, R_{5''}, equal to or different from each other, are selected from H, C₁-C₅, preferably C₁-C₃, linear or branched alkyl;

X₀ = -O-, -NH-, -NR_{1c}- wherein R_{1c} is as above defined;

the bond between the steroid and the linking group X₁ is of ester or amidic type;

X₁ is a bivalent linking group selected from the following:

- Y_{AR1} :

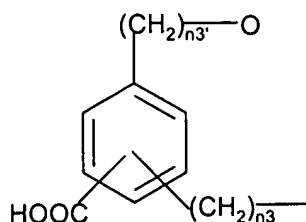


(V)

wherein n₃ is an integer from 0 to 5 and n'₃ is an integer from 1 to

3;

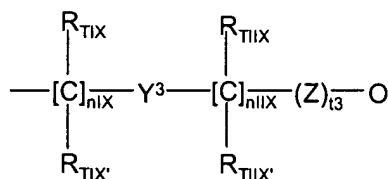
- Y_{AR2} :



(VI)

wherein n3 and n3' have the above meaning.

- Y_p:



(III)

wherein:

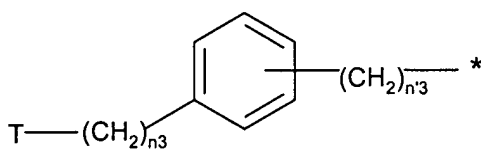
nIX is an integer from 0 to 10, preferably 1-3;

nIIX is an integer from 1 to 10, preferably 1-5;

R_{TIX}, R_{TIX'}, R_{TII}, R_{TII'}, equal to or different from each other are H or C₁-C₄ linear or branched alkyl; preferably R_{TIX}, R_{TIX'}, R_{TII}, R_{TII'} are H;
Y³ is a saturated, unsaturated or aromatic heterocyclic ring, having 5 or 6 atoms, containing from one to three heteroatoms, preferably from one to two, said heteroatoms being equal or different and selected from nitrogen, oxygen, sulphur, preferably nitrogen;

t3 is zero or 1;

Z has the following meaning:



(VI)

wherein:

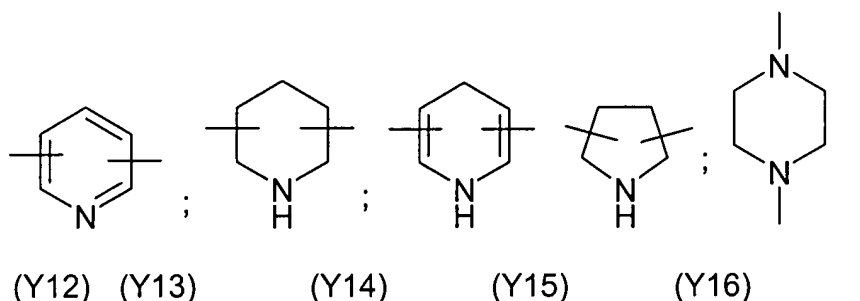
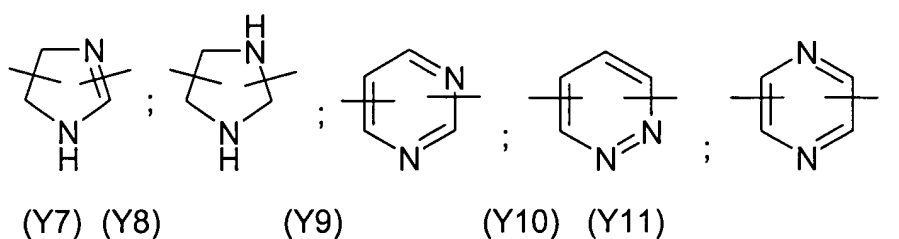
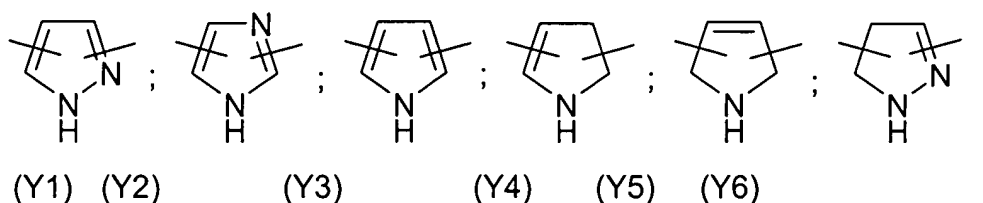
* shows the position of the ONO₂ group;

T has the following meanings:

- -COX₃-, -X₃CO-, wherein X₃ = S or X_o as above defined;
- -X₃- as above defined;

n3 and n'3 are as above defined.

2. (Original) Compounds according to claim 1, wherein Y³ is selected from the following bivalent radicals:



3. (Original) Compounds according to claim 2, wherein Y^3 is selected from the following: (Y12), having the two free valences in the ortho positions with respect to the nitrogen atom; (Y16) with the two valences linked to the two heteroatoms, (Y1) (pyrazol) 3,5-disubstituted; (Y16) is particularly preferred.

4. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to ~~claims 1-3~~ claim 1, wherein the precursor of B is selected from the following: Budesonide, Hy-drocortisone, Alclomethasone, Algestone, Beclomethasone, Betamethasone, Chloroprednisone, Ciclesonide, Clobetasol, Clobetasone, Clcortolone, Cloprednol, Cortisone, Corticosterone, Deflazacort, Desonide, Desoximethasone, Dexamethasone, Dexamethasone 17-furoate, Diflorasone Diflu-cortolone, Difluprednate, Fluazacort, Flucoronide, Flumethasone, Flunisolide, Fluocinolone Acetonide, Fluocinonide, Fluocortyn Butyl, Fluocortolone, Fluorometholone, Fluperolone Acetate, Fluprednidene Acetate, Fluprednisolone, Flurandrenolide, Formocortal, Halcinonide, Halobetasol Propionate, Halomethasone, Halopredone Ace-tate, Hydrocortamate, Itrocinonide, Loteprednol Eta-bonate, Meclonisone, Medrysone, Meprednisone, Methylprednisolone, Momethasone Furoate, Paramethasone, Prednicarbate, Prednisolone, Prednisolone 25-TECH/252960.1

Diethylaminoacetate, Prednisolone Sodium Phosphate, Prednisone, Prednival, Prednylidene, Rofleponide Rimexolone, Triamcinolone, 21-Acetoxyprogesterone, Cortivazol, Amcinonide, Fluticasone Propionate, MaziPredone, Taucorten, Tixocortol, Triamcinolone Hexacetonide; Ursodesoxycholic acid, Chenodesoxycholic acid; Myatrienediol, Moxestrol, Ethynyl-estradiol, Estradiol, Mestranol; methyl (20R)-6- α , 9 α -difluoro-11 β -hydroxy-16 α , 17 α propyl methylene dioxyandrosta-1,4-dien-3-one-17 β -carboxylate.

5. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to ~~claims 1-4~~ claim 1, wherein when B is the residue of a corticosteroid, $R'' = IB$ with $t = 1$ and $t_1 = 0$; preferably in the formula of the linking group L $n_a = n_b = n''b = 1$; $n'a = n''b = n'''b = n''a = 0$; $R_4 = R_5 = H$; or $n'b = n''b = 1$ and all the other $n_a, n_b, n'a, n'''b, n''a$ are equal to zero.

6. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to ~~claims 1-4~~ claim 1, wherein when B is the residue of a biliary acid, $R'' = IC$ with $t_1 = 1$; preferably in the formula of the linking group L $n_a = n'b = 1$, $n'a = 2$, $n''b = n'''b = n''a = n_b = 0$, $R_4 = CH_3$, $R_5 = R_{4''} = R_{5''} = H$.

7. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to ~~claims 1-4~~ claim 1, wherein when B is the residue of an estrogen

- $R'' = IC$ wherein $t_1 = 0$ and in the formula of the linking group L $n_b = n'b = 1$; $n_a = n'a = n''b = n'''b = n''a = 0$, the other substituent of the carbon atom in position 17 is preferably H or ethynyl, and in position 3 one of the substituents is optionally the $-R''-X_1-NO_2$ group (R'' as above defined);

or

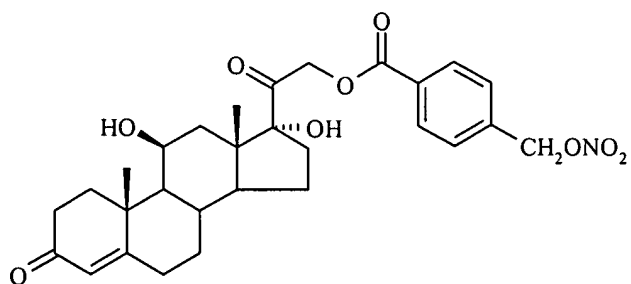
- in position 3 the $-R''-X_1-NO_2$ group is present, R'' being as above when B is the residue of an estrogen, then the substituents of the carbon atom in position 17 in formula (IA) of B are the following:

- $R'' = -O-$, wherein the oxygen free valence is saturated with H;

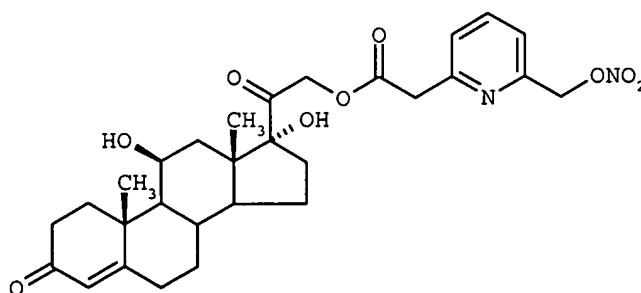
- H is substituted with a group different from OH.

8. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to ~~claims 1-7~~ claim 1,
selected from the following:

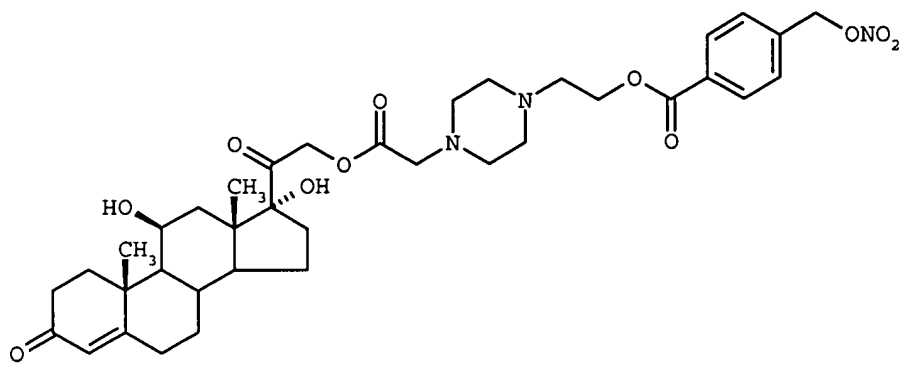
Hydrocortisone 21-(4'-nitrooxymethyl) benzoate



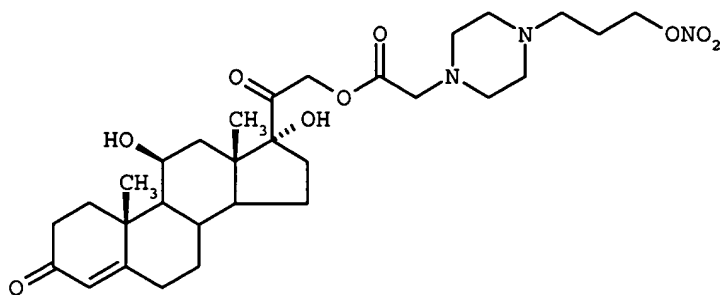
Hydrocortisone-21-[2-[6-(nitrooxymethyl)-2-pyridinyl] acetate]



Hydrocortisone-21[2-[4-[2-[4-(nitrooxymethyl)benzoyloxy] ethyl] 1-piperazinyl]acetate]

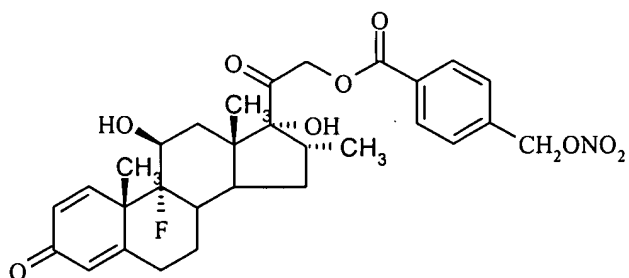


Hydrocortisone-21-[2-[4-[3-(nitrooxy)propyl]-1-pipera-zinyl] acetate]



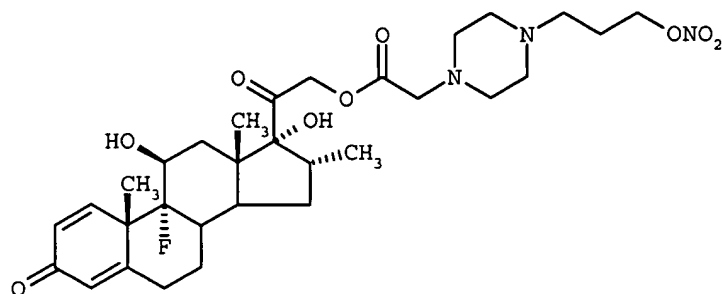
;

Dexamethasone 21-(4'-nitrooxymethyl)benzoate



;

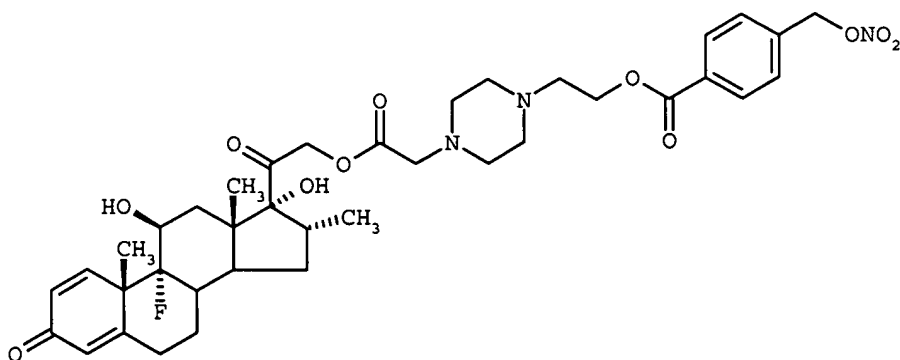
Dexamethasone-21-[2-[4-[3-(nitrooxy)propyl]-1-piperazinyl] acetate]



;

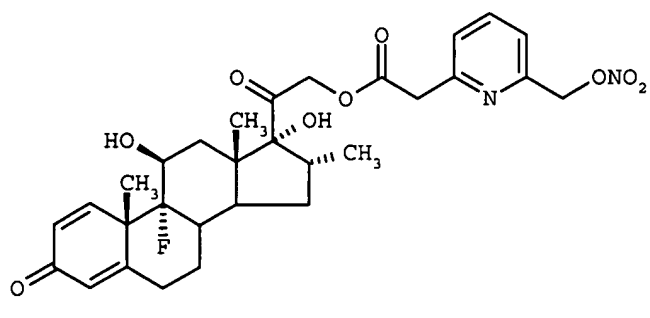
Dexamethasone-21[2-[4-[2-[4-(nitrooxymethyl)benzoyloxy] piperazinyl]acetate]

ethyl]-1-

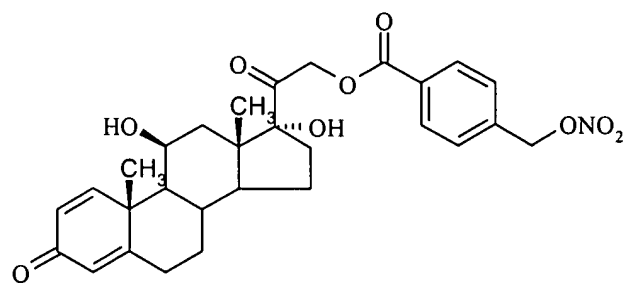


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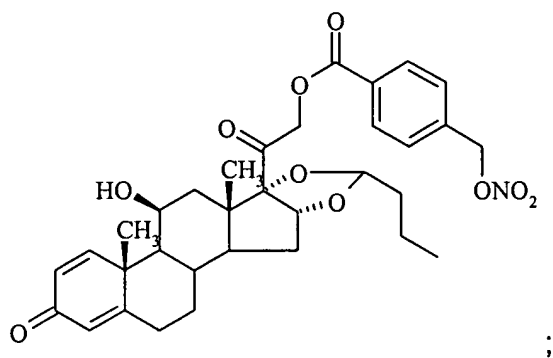
Dexamethasone-21-[2-[6-(nitrooxymethyl)-2-pyridinyl] acetate]



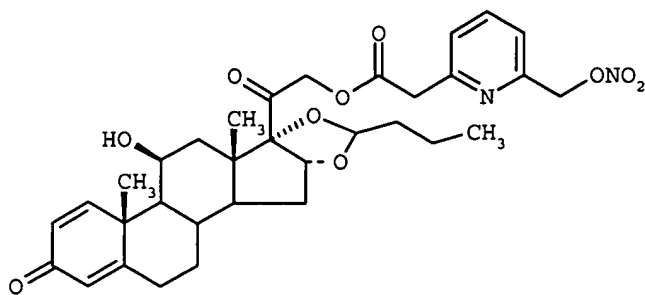
Prednisolone 21-(4'-nitrooxymethyl)benzoate



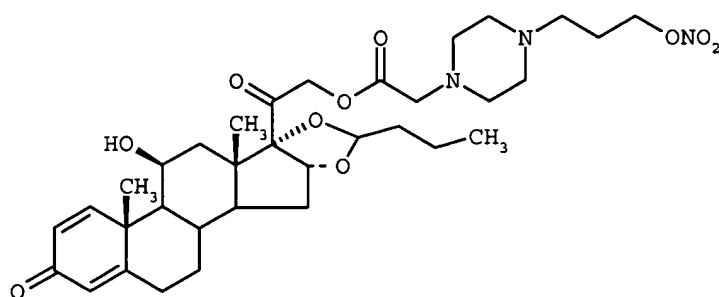
Budesonide 21-(4'-nitrooxymethyl)benzoate:



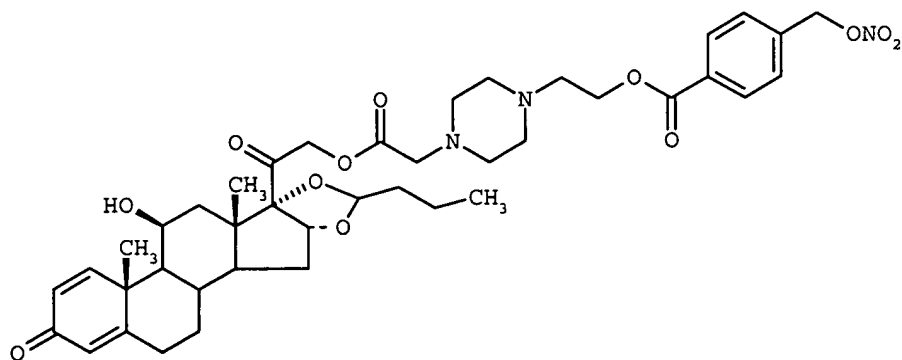
Budesonide-21-[2-[6-(nitrooxymethyl)-2-pyridinyl]acetate]



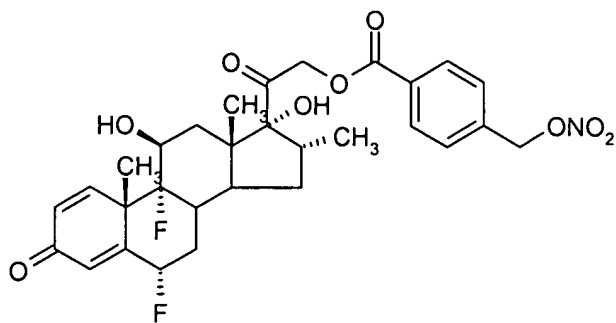
Budesonide-21-[2-[4-[3-(nitrooxy)propyl]-1-piperazinyl] acetate]



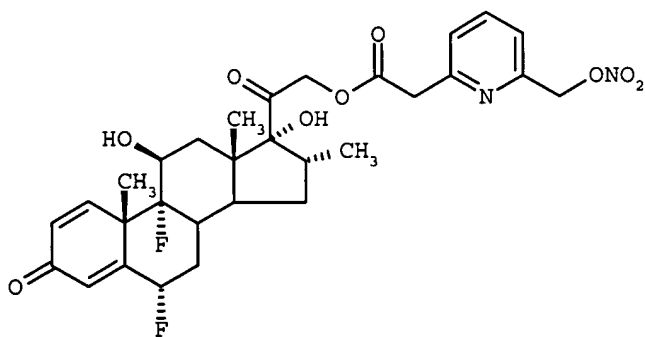
Budesonide-21[2-[4-[2-[4-nitrooxymethyl)benzoyl oxy]ethyl]-1-piperazinyl]acetate]



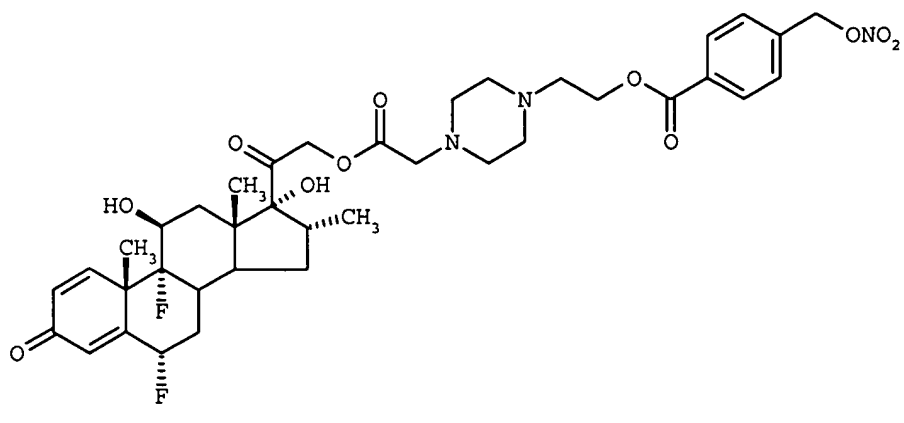
Flumethasone 21-(4'-nitrooxymethyl)benzoate:



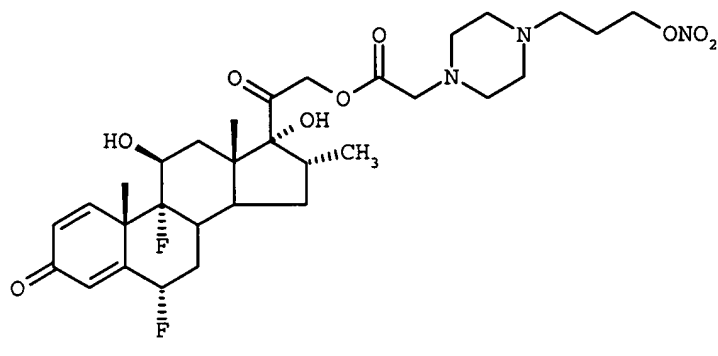
Flumethasone-21-[2-[6-(nitrooxymethyl)-2-pyridinyl]acetate]



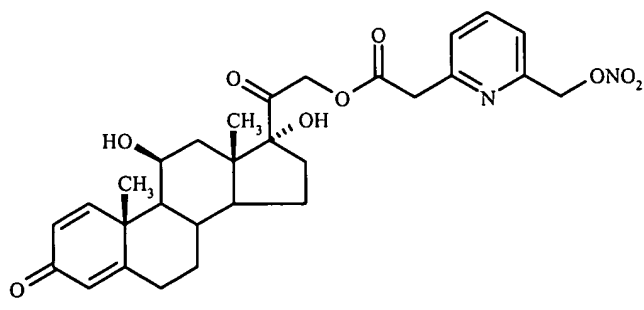
Flumethasone-21[2-[4-[2-[4-(nitrooxymethyl)benzoyloxy]-ethyl]-1-piperazinyl]acetate]



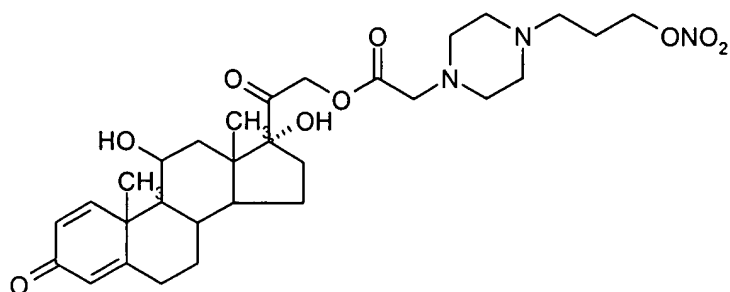
Flumethasone-21-[2-[4-[3-(nitrooxy)propyl]-1-piperazinyl] acetate]



Prednisolone-21-[2-[6-(nitrooxymethyl)-2-pyridinyl] acetate]

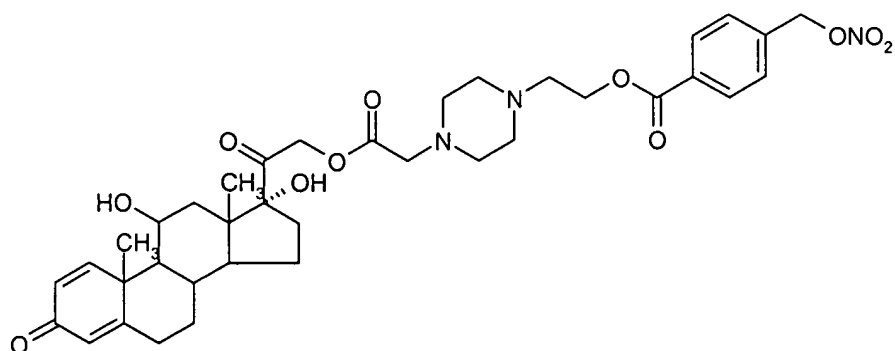


Prednisolone-21-[2-[4-(3-nitrooxy)propyl) piperazin-1-yl] acetate] and the corresponding bishydrochloride salt:



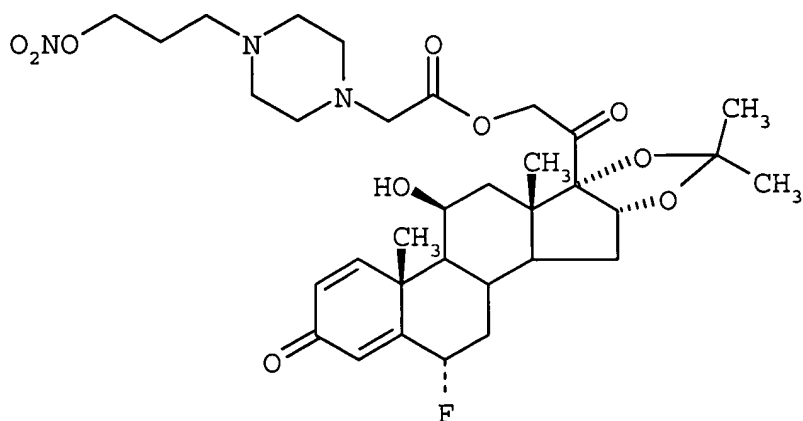
;

Prednisolone-21-[2-[4-[2-[(4'-nitrooxymethyl)benzoyl oxy]ethyl]piperazin-1-yl]acetate] and the corresponding bishydrochloride salt:



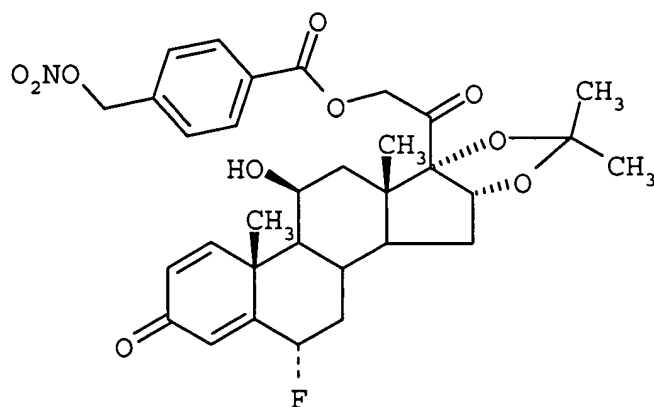
;

Flunisolide-21-[2-[4-[3-(nitrooxy)propyl]-1-piperazinyl] acetate]



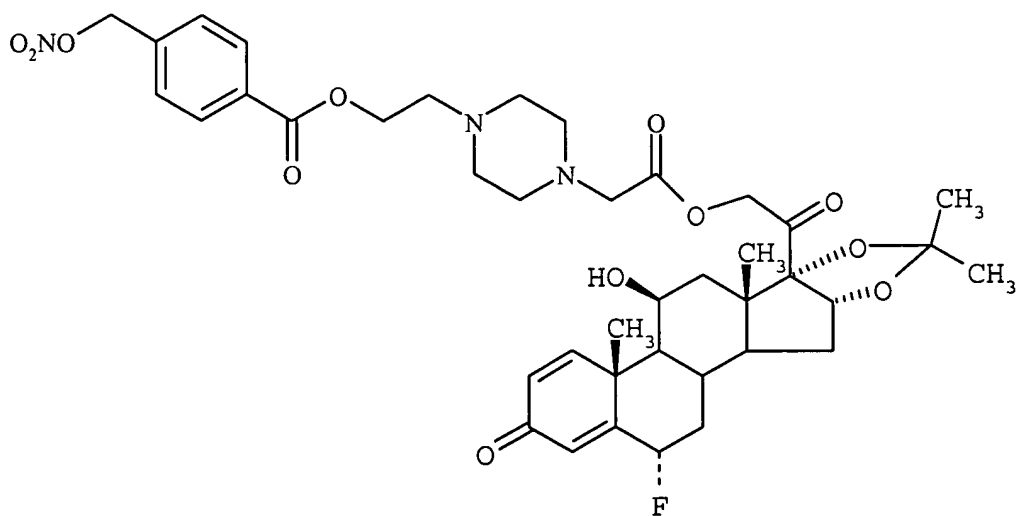
;

Flunisolide-21-[(4'-nitrooxymethyl)]benzoate



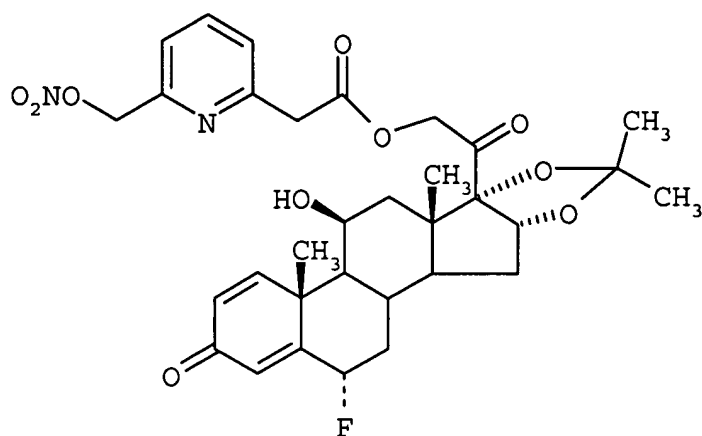
;

Flunisolide-21-[2-[4-[2-[4-(nitrooxymethyl)benzoyloxy] ethyl]-1-piperazinyl]acetate]

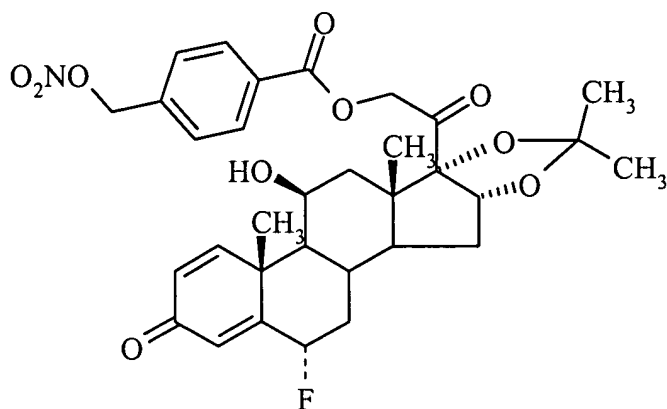


;

Flunisolide-21-[2-[6-(nitrooxymethyl)-2-pyridinyl] acetate]



Flunisolide 21-[(4'-nitrooxymethyl)benzoate)]



9. (Currently Amended) Use of the compounds according to ~~claims 1-8~~ claim 1, for the preparation of medicaments.
10. (Currently Amended) Use of the compounds according to ~~claims 1-8~~ claim 1, as drugs having antiinflammatory activity at peripheral level.
11. (Currently Amended) Use of the compounds according to ~~claims 1-8~~ claim 1, for the therapy of neurodegenerative diseases on an inflammatory and traumatic basis of the nervous system.
12. (Currently Amended) Use of the compounds according to ~~claims 1-8~~ claim 1, as drugs having an antiarthritic activity.

13. (Currently Amended) Use of the compounds of ~~claims 1-8~~ claim 1, as drugs having an immunodepressive activity.
14. (Currently Amended) Use of the compounds according to ~~claims 1-8~~ claim 1, as drugs having an angiostatic/angiogenetic activity.
15. (Currently Amended) Use of the compounds according to ~~claims 1-8~~ claim 1, as drugs having an antiasthmatic activity.
16. (Currently Amended) Use of the compounds according to ~~claims 1-8~~ claim 1, in substitutive hormonal therapies, preferably in the post-menopause therapy.
17. (Currently Amended) Use of the compounds according to ~~claims 1-8~~ claim 1, in rheumatic disease therapies.
18. (Currently Amended) Use of the compounds according to ~~claims 1-8~~ claim 1, in renal disease therapies.
19. (Currently Amended) Use of the compounds according to ~~claims 1-8~~ claim 1, in bronchial disease therapies.
20. (Currently Amended) Use of the compounds according to ~~claims 1-8~~ claim 1, in ocular disease therapies.
21. (Currently Amended) Use of the compounds according to ~~claims 1-8~~ claim 1, in dermatologic disease therapies.
22. (Currently Amended) Use of the compounds according to ~~claims 1-8~~ claim 1, in autoimmune disease therapies.
23. (Currently Amended) Use of the compounds according to ~~claims 1-8~~ claim 1, in tumoral process therapies, optionally in combination with chemotherapeutic and/or radiotherapeutic treatments.
24. (Original) Use according to claim 10, in inflammatory pathologies affecting the gastrointestinal system.
25. (Currently Amended) Use of the compounds according to ~~claims 1-8~~ claim 1, wherein the glucocorticoid compounds are used in respiratory pathologies characterized by broncho-obstructive events.
26. (Currently Amended) Pharmaceutical formulations comprising the compounds of ~~claims 1-8~~ claim 1.